

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05192 241044Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 240734Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3200

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

S E C R E T TEHRAN 5192

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, LE, IR

SUBJECT: LEBANESE REQUEST FOR ARMS FROM IRAN

REF: A. STATE 143867 B. TEHRAN 5168

1. SUBSTANCE OF REF A CONVEYED TO COURT MINISTER ALAM JULY 23 AND PIECE OF PAPER LEFT WITH HIM SUMMARIZING MAIN POINTS OF REF A. I ALSO NOTED THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE GOING ON IN BEIRUT REGARDING PRICE, AVAILABILITY, SUITABILITY, ETC., OF M60 TANKS AND 155MM SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZERS. AS LATTER WERE NOT CURRENTLY IN IRANIAN INVENTORY I SAID IT SEEMS TO MAKE MORE SENSE FOR LEBANESE TO EXPLORE THEIR ACQUISITION DIRECTLY WITH U.S. THAN THROUGH IRAN.

2. COURT MINISTER

ALAM AGREED AND ADDED IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT WHILE LEBANESE RECOGNIZED LOGIC OF DEALING DIRECTLY WITH U.S. FOR MUCH OF EQUIPMENT THEY WERE SEEKING FROM IRAN, THEY STILL WISHED TO PURSUE MATTER WITH GOI IN HOPES THAT IRAN WOULD HELP UNDERWRITE LEBANESE ARMS PUCHASES IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER AND PROVIDE BETTER TERMS.

3. COMMENT: NET RESULT OF THIS ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS ON LEBANESE ARMS REQUESTS MAY HAVE BEEN TO HELP

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LEBANESE CONCLUDE THAT THEIR NEEDS FOR 155MM HOWITZERS,

LIKE AIRCRAFT, ARE BETTER EXPLORED IN BEIRUT WITH
U.S. THAN IN TEHRAN WITH GOL.
HECK

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Draft Date: 24 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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